

SENATE RESOLUTION 67

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mary C. Scales of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mary C. Scales, a woman of tremendous warmth and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Scales was a compassionate and courageous woman, and a leader in Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a passionate learner, Mary Scales attended Knoxville College and persevered to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Scales went on to pursue a Master of Mathematics degree from Middle Tennessee State University and post-graduate studies at Peabody College and Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Mary Scales shared her love of learning with others; she taught at Bradley Elementary School before she became a supervisor for Rutherford County Schools; and

WHEREAS, a fearless pioneer, Mary Scales was the first African American faculty member at Middle Tennessee State University, the first African American woman elected to the Murfreesboro City Council, following her husband, Robert "Ree-Niny" Scales, who was the first African American elected to the City Council, and the first African American to have a Murfreesboro City School named after her and her husband; and

WHEREAS, an involved community leader, Mary Scales was a board member of the Martin Luther King Scholarship of Rutherford County, the MTSU Foundation, Linebaugh Library, Mid-South Bank and Trust, the Boys and Girls Club, the Discovery Center, the *Daily News Journal* Newspapers in Education, Murfreesboro Electric, Murfreesboro City Schools, Parks and Recreation, and the Danforth Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Scales was also a member of the Criterion Literary Arts Club, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Business Women's Association, the National Council of Mathematics, Delta Kappa Gamma Society, International, Phi Delta Kappa, and the National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, Mary Scales founded the Pi Nu Omega chapter and Eta Psi chapter of her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and served as Basileus and undergraduate advisor to many young women; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Scales proved her acumen as a businesswomen as the owner of Scales and Sons Funeral Home from 2000 to 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mary Scales's innumerable accomplishments earned her many accolades, including the Trailblazer Award, the Silver Medallion Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc., the Outstanding Service award from the City of Murfreesboro, and she was named A Woman of Courage by *Essence* magazine, Citizen of the Year by Bradley Academy Historical Society, and was inducted into the Tennessee Teacher's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mary Scales is remembered by friends and family as "a community treasure," who "shared the best of her talents with a community which grew to love, embrace, and thank her for tireless efforts to bring all of our children, families, and community together"; and

WHEREAS, Mary Scales was preceded in death by her beloved husband of fifty-one years, Robert "Tee-Niny" Scales, and their children, Melvin Pearson, Sandra Renee, and Preston Marcelleous Scales; and

WHEREAS, Mary Scales will be deeply missed by her children, Robert Winston Scales, Jr., Madelyn Elizabeth Scales Harris, and Joan Simmons; grandchildren, Preston, Jr., Nikki, and Shamond Scales, Tonya Haynes, Barry Daniel, Toi, Paul, III, and Travis Douglass, Robert Harris, Demetris Lyles, Maureen Wood, Terri and Charles Simmons, Perdita Scales, and Melvin Rucker; seventeen great grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Mary C. Scales, commemorate her exemplary moral and civic leadership in Murfreesboro and the State of Tennessee, and reflect upon her impeccable character, unfailing compassion, and commitment to others and her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Scales.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.